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As a small ISP founded in 1997 we have worked hard to serve our community when few if any other local service options were available. We employ local people and provide personal service. Many other providers throughout the country worked long and hard hours to make the internet available to their customer base. The Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (Sprint in our case) were happy to sell us communication services at significant profit to facilitate our business.

At first it seemed that we were simply a money mill for the ILEC and our Communication Equipment Vendor. As our business grew and we learned how to operate more efficiently we found that it was actually possible to make a profit as an ISP.

With the onset of Broadband DSL services we invested early and began providing service as soon as it was available in our chosen service area. With Sprint functioning as a partner and competing for the same customers we quickly found ourselves at a significant disadvantage except with our most loyal customers. Despite the stiff competition and tight margins we are able to provide a quality service to our customers and remain profitable.

Now that Sprint has an established presence we are no longer treated as a partner, but rather as competition that needs to be eliminated. They seem to look on in disbelief that we refuse to give up and close our business or sell to EarthLink. If the Forbearance filed by BellSouth is approved it seems obvious that Sprint will follow their lead.

As with other Independent ISP's we have worked hard to establish our business and provide quality service to our customers. I see no reason why the ILEC's or the Cable companies should have exclusive rights to the industry we worked so hard to establish. Allowing these companies to use public right-of-way to establish connectivity to the customer base while denying us access and the ability to compete is a travesty of justice. Competition is the spirit of what makes the United States of America the great nation it is.